

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) An intake structure of an engine for a snowmobile wherein a four-cycle engine positioned with its cylinder head at the upper side is provided at the approximate center of an engine room formed in the front body thereof, a steering post equipped with a steering device at the top end thereof for maneuvering the snowmobile is set up in the engine room so that it stands with its steering device side tilted to the rear,

characterized in that the engine is arranged in front of the steering post and an intake passage is disposed between the steering post and the engine body.

10. (New) The intake structure of a snowmobile engine according to Claim 9, wherein an intake manifold constituting part of the intake passage is arranged at the side of the steering post in such a manner that air is supplied to the manifold by downdraft ventilation.

11. (New) The intake structure of a snowmobile engine according to Claim 9, wherein the front body includes an instrument panel at the top and an engine hood in front of the instrument panel, and the engine hood is formed so that it starts at a position stepped down a degree from the front end of the instrument panel toward the front end while a headlight facing outwards and frontwards is arranged at the stepped portion between the engine hood and instrument panel, and a carburetor constituting part of the intake passage is disposed in a space behind the headlight under the instrument panel inside the engine room.

12. (New) The intake structure of a snowmobile engine according to Claim 9, wherein the engine is arranged so that the axis of its crankshaft therein is oriented approximately parallel to the body width direction while the carburetor is positioned at a level higher than the cylinder head.

13. (New) The intake structure of a snowmobile engine according to Claim 9, wherein the engine includes an air cleaner box disposed at the rear of a head cover that covers the cylinder head and a first breather hose that connects the interior of the head cover with the interior of the air cleaner box, and the first breather hose is connected at one end to the rear side of the head cover on the drive-clutch side and is extended approximately linearly, and parallel to, the axial direction of the crankshaft, from the drive clutch side to the opposite side and bent perpendicularly, when viewed from top, and further extended and connected at the other end to the air cleaner box.

14. (New) The intake structure of a snowmobile engine according to Claim 13, wherein, when the snowmobile body is in its horizontal position, the first breather hose is positioned so that a joint to head cover is lower than another joint to the air cleaner box.

15. (New) The intake structure of a snowmobile engine according to Claim 9, wherein the engine includes a second breather hose for connecting the interior of the air cleaner box to the outside of the snowmobile body, and the second breather hose is connected at one end to the bottom of the air cleaner box and the other end is arranged penetrating through the bottom of the front body and opening to the outside, whereby the water inside the air cleaner box is drained to the outside of the body.

16. (New) A snowmobile comprising:

a vehicle body;

a four-cycle engine mounted in an engine compartment of the vehicle body and covered by an engine hood, the engine having a crankshaft and a cylinder, the crankshaft being oriented along a vehicle body width direction, an axis of the cylinder being tilted rearward with respect to a vertical line of the vehicle body;

an oil pan of the four-cycle engine disposed in a vicinity of and adjacent to a lowest portion of the engine compartment; and

an oil strainer provided in the oil pan.

17. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 16, wherein the engine is a four-cycle double overhead cam engine.

18. (New) The snowmobile according to claim 16, wherein a water pump is arranged on a front side of the engine.

19. (New) The snowmobile according to claim 16, wherein an oil filter is arranged at the front of a crankcase of the engine.